

CLAIMS

I/We claim:

- [c1] 1. In a telecommunications system having at least one network gateway coupled among multiple mobile devices and a network, and wherein a content sharing system and a content provider are also coupled to the network, a method of sharing content between a user and a recipient, both of whom have a mobile device having access to the network, the method comprising:
- receiving a request message, wherein the request message is generated, at least in part, by the content provider, the request message comprising:
- information identifying the content sharing system, and
- information identifying content provided by the content provider, wherein the user selected the identified content as content that the user wishes to share with the recipient;
- providing a user input form for display to the user, wherein the user input form includes a request for the user to identify the recipient;
- receiving user input information submitted by the user via the user input form; and
- based on the received information, generating a content share message for transmittal to the mobile device of the recipient, wherein the content share message includes an indication of the identified content that the user wishes to share with the recipient, so that the content can be presented on the mobile device of the recipient.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the user selected the identified content from the mobile device of the user.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the user selected the identified content from a device other than a mobile device.

- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the content sharing system is associated with a wireless carrier and wherein the wireless carrier provides mobile service for the mobile device of the recipient.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the content sharing system is associated with a wireless carrier and wherein the wireless carrier does not provide mobile service for the mobile device of the recipient.
- [c6] 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing access to an address book application coupled to the content sharing system, wherein the address book application facilitates the user's identification of the recipient.
- [c7] 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising authenticating the user.
- [c8] 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising authenticating the recipient.
- [c9] 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising determining whether the user has exceeded a predetermined threshold for sharing content.
- [c10] 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the user input form provided for display to the user includes a listing of a predetermined number of recipients with whom the user recently shared content.
- [c11] 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the received request message is in the form of an HTTP GET request.
- [c12] 12. A mobile device registered with a mobile service provider, the mobile device comprising:
 means for receiving user input;
 means for providing output;

memory means;
radio transceiver and processing means coupled to the memory means;
and
wherein the mobile device is smaller than a laptop or tablet computer, and
further comprises:
means for presenting content via an output component of the mobile
device, wherein the content is provided by a content provider
and includes a user-selectable option to facilitate sharing the
content with other mobile device users;
means for sending a request message to a content sharing system,
wherein the request message is based on information
associated with the user-selectable option;
means for receiving a user input form from the content sharing
system, wherein the user input form is configured to obtain
user input identifying recipients for the shared content; and
means for sending information associated with the completed user
input form to the content sharing system.

[c13] 13. The mobile device of claim 12 further comprising means for, after
sending the information associated with the completed user input form, receiving a
message indicating the status of the request sent to the content sharing system.

[c14] 14. The mobile device of claim 12 further comprising means for, after
sending the information associated with the completed user input form, re-
presenting the content via the output component.

[c15] 15. The mobile device of claim 12 further comprising means for
presenting information from an address book application, wherein the address
book application facilitates the identifying of recipients for the shared content in
combination with the user input form.

[c16] 16. The mobile device of claim 12 wherein the largest dimension of the mobile device is smaller than twelve inches or does not have a full size keyboard that can accommodate both hands of a user.

[c17] 17. At a content provider system, a method of sharing content among users of mobile devices interconnected within one or more mobile telecommunication networks, wherein at least some of the users subscribe to a mobile service provided by a mobile service provider, the method comprising:
generating a user-selectable share content option as part of content available for access by users of mobile devices,
wherein the user-selectable share content option facilitates sharing the content with other users of mobile devices, and
wherein the user-selectable share content option is based on an application program interface provided in association with a content sharing application of the mobile service provider; and
providing the content, including the user-selectable share content option, to a device of a user, wherein the content can then be shared with a recipient device via the content sharing application of the mobile service provider.

[c18] 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the user-selectable share content option is implemented as a link that, when selected, results in a request message being sent to the content sharing application of the mobile service provider.

[c19] 19. The method of claim 17 wherein the content available for access by users of mobile devices is an executable application.

[c20] 20. The method of claim 17 wherein the content available for access by users of mobile devices is an executable MIDP application.

[c21] 21. A wireless service provider system for facilitating the sharing of content among mobile device users via one or more networks, the system comprising:

a server computer;

a database coupled to the server computer;

a content sharing application running on the server computer and having access to the database,

wherein the content sharing application receives and processes requests to share content among the mobile device users, and

wherein the requests are received from customers of the wireless service provider system; and

multiple network gateways for facilitating the communication between the content sharing application and the mobile device users,

wherein at least one of the multiple gateways is configured for facilitating communication between the content sharing application and mobile devices of the mobile device users via a mobile device telecommunication network, and

wherein at least one of the multiple gateways is configured for facilitating communication between the content sharing application and computing devices connected via a public communication network.

[c22] 22. The system of claim 21 wherein the multiple network gateways include a mobile access gateway.

[c23] 23. The system of claim 21 wherein the multiple network gateways include a push proxy gateway.

[c24] 24. The system of claim 21 wherein the multiple network gateways include a short message peer-to-peer gateway.

[c25] 25. The system of claim 21 wherein the multiple network gateways include a wireless service broker.

[c26] 26. The system of claim 21 further comprising a cross-carrier application accessible by the content sharing application, wherein the cross-carrier application facilitates the sharing of content with recipients not registered with the content sharing application.

[c27] 27. The system of claim 21 further comprising an address book application accessible by the content sharing application.

[c28] 28. A computer-readable medium containing a data structure for facilitating sharing of content among users of mobile devices, the data structure comprising:

an indication of content to be shared,

wherein the indication of the content to be shared is provided as a parameter associated with a user-selectable option on a display description provided by a content provider, and

wherein the indication of the content to be shared is provided in a framework defined in a content sharing application of a mobile service provider; and

a link associated with a server hosting the content sharing application,

wherein the content sharing application receives information associated with the data structure as a result of a user selecting the user-selectable option on the provided display description.

[c29] 29. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 wherein the display description is implemented, at least in part, in HTML.

[c30] 30. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 wherein the display description is implemented, at least in part, in XML.

[c31] 31. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 wherein the display description is implemented, at least in part, in XHTML.

[c32] 32. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 wherein the display description is implemented, at least in part, in WML.

[c33] 33. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 further comprising an indication of uniform resource locator associated with the content to be shared.

[c34] 34. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 further comprising an indication of a specific uniform resource locator identifying an address for specific content to be shared.

[c35] 35. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 further comprising an indication of whether the content provider consents to providing access to the shared content to a cross-carrier user.

[c36] 36. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 further comprising an indication of a return uniform resource locator identifying the address of the display description to which the user will be returned after performing a process associated with identifying recipients with whom to share content.

[c37] 37. A method for facilitating the sharing of content among users of mobile devices, the method comprising:

providing an application program interface for content providers, wherein the application program interface provides a framework for content providers to offer an option for customers of a wireless service provider to share information with mobile device users; and

providing a content sharing application, wherein the content sharing application receives and processes requests from the customers of the wireless service provider to share content with the mobile device users.

[c38] 38. The method of claim 37 further comprising charging a fee to the content providers for providing the option for the customers of the wireless service provider to share information with the mobile device users.

[c39] 39. The method of claim 37 further comprising tracking attempts of the customers of the wireless service provider to share content with the mobile device users and charging a fee in association with the attempts.

[c40] 40. The method of claim 37 further comprising providing incentives to customers of the wireless service provider to share content with the mobile device users.